



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: A7909

Nicholas V. NECHITAILO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/973,015

Confirmation No.: 5104

Group Art Unit: 2874

Filed: October 10, 2001

Examiner: Ellen E. Kim

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE VARIATION OF EXCESS FIBER  
LENGTH IN BUFFER TUBES OF FIBER OPTIC CABLES

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

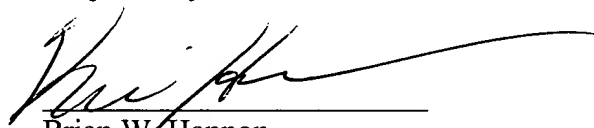
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/973,015

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian W. Hannon  
Registration No. 32,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

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Date: February 26, 2004



Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO

*Complete if Known*

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet

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of

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Application Number	09/973,015
Confirmation Number	5104
Filing Date	October 10, 2001
First Named Inventor	Nicholas V. NECHITAILO
Art Unit	2874
Examiner Name	Ellen E. Kim
Attorney Docket Number	A7909

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 4,920,738		05/01/1990	White, et al.
		US 3,694,711		09/26/1972	Bonikowski, et al..
		US 3,800,196		03/26/1974	Zimmermann
		US 3,910,521		10/07/1975	O'Callaghan, et al.
		US 4,655,410		04/07/1987	Ruffin, et al.
		US 4,848,687		07/18/1989	Myers, et al.
		US 6,024,319		02/15/2000	Kawabata, et al.
		US 5,593,101		01/14/1997	Varga
		US			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner Signature**

**Date Considered**

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.